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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/522,359	03/09/2000	Wadood Hamad	A-6756	3106

7590

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, LAWRENCE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

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DATE MAILED: 01/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/522,359

Applicant(s)

HAMAD ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence D Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment mailed November 15, 2001.
Claim 4 was amended and claims 9-15 were canceled, rendering claims 1-8 and 16-17 pending in this application.

Election/Restrictions

2. The Examiner failed to include claims 16-17 in one of the restricted groups. Therefore claims 16-17 are being added to group II, now consisting of claims 9-17.
3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-8, drawn to crack-resistant paper or board, classified in class 428, subclass 211.
 - II. Claims 9-17, drawn to process for producing disposable and decomposable food container, classified in class 156, subclass 39.
4. Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the product can be made by mixing, extruding and molding a polymer material and double-coating a cellulose fiber network web with the molded polymer material.

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5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. A telephone call was made to Stewart Gitler on July 25, 2001, an election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-8. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 9-17, withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently name inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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9. Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell (U.S. 5,876,792) in view of Conforti et al. (U.S. 5,620,819) in view of Li et al (U.S. 5,061,545).

10. Caldwell discloses a thinnable polymer composition into a porous web where the polymer composition is applied onto a surface of the web having structural elements (abstract). Caldwell discloses structural elements as fibers or filaments (column 4, line 39). Caldwell discloses paper having a web made of fibers in the form of yarns or staples (column 5, lines 29-40). Fibers constitute geometric formations in diamond-shape form. Caldwell discloses blades across the surface of the sheet and the controlled placement of the polymer within the sheet (column 5, lines 49-51). Caldwell discloses an acrylic copolymer (column 23, lines 19-20) as a web in the polymer. Caldwell does not disclose the weight percentage of the paper or board. The weight percentage is a matter of optimization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the weight percentage of the paper since discovering optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. Caldwell does not disclose the use of the particular polymers to be used in the instant invention of styrene butadiene, latex, cellulose acetate butyrate, polybutadiene, acrylonitrile butadiene, polyhydroxy butyrate or cellulose acetate butyrate.

Conforti teaches a network formed by a polymer (column 7, line 54) which has abrasion resistance. Conforti teaches paper formed material containing web material (column 10, lines 40-52). Conforti teaches acrylic polymers as the polymer of the web (column 11, line 61). Conforti teaches cellulose acetate butyrate and styrene butadiene (column 12, lines 60-62) as abrasion resistant polymers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the

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cellulose acetate butyrate or styrene butadiene of Conforti to the abrasion resistant paper of Caldwell because Conforti teaches the conventional use of these materials in paper formed web materials that have abrasion resistant properties. Neither reference teaches a discontinuous polymer film.

Li teaches a fibrous web and polymeric matrix composition where the fibrous web is impregnated with the polymeric matrix composition (column 2, lines 6-9) where the polymeric composition is distributed in a pattern (column 2, lines 18-20). Li teaches a fibrous web with a discontinuous polymer distribution (column 9, lines 32-35). All the references are analogous art because they are from the same field of fibrous webs. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the polymer used in Caldwell's fibrous web discontinuous because Li teaches the discontinuous polymeric material helps to increase durability.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

11. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ungar et al. (U.S. 4,520,062) in view of Conforti et al. (U.S. 5,620,819) in view of Li et al (U.S. 5,061,545).
12. Ungar discloses a thermoplastic or thermosetting abrasion-resistant substrate consisting of an ultra-thin web and cellulose (abstract). Ungar discloses ultra-thin abrasion resistant layers that are thermoplastic and thermosetting that is capable of being coated on a surface (column 2, lines 10-15). Ungar discloses the substrate can be a thermoplastic, thermosettable board where the web can be applied in sheet form (column 3, lines 26-30). A sheet is analogous to paper.

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Ungar discloses the abrasion resistance coating can be shaped and has impregnated products (column 8, lines 43-55). Ungar does not disclose using a polymer.

Conforti teaches a network formed by a polymer (column 7, line 54) which has abrasion resistance. Conforti teaches paper formed material containing web material (column 10, lines 40-52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the polymer of Conforti to the abrasion resistant board or sheet of Ungar because Conforti teaches the conventional use of using polymeric material in paper formed web materials that have abrasion resistant properties. Neither reference teaches a discontinuous polymer film.

Li teaches a fibrous web and polymeric matrix composition where the fibrous web is impregnated with the polymeric matrix composition (column 2, lines 6-9) where the polymeric composition is distributed in a pattern (column 2, lines 18-20). Li teaches a fibrous web with a discontinuous polymer distribution (column 9, lines 32-35). All the references are analogous art because they are from the same field of fibrous webs. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the polymer used in Conforti's fibrous web discontinuous because Li teaches the discontinuous polymeric material helps increase durability of the article.


Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments to rejections of August 15, 2001 have been fully considered and are considered moot due to new rejections. Objection to claim 4 is withdrawn due to amendment.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is (703) 305-9978. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. Please allow the examiner twenty-four hours to return your call.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.


Lawrence D. Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 1774

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

